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EUGENE G. IREDALE, ESQ. (SBN: 75292 JULIA YOO, ESQ. (SBN: 231163) IREDALE and YOO, APC 105 West "F" Street, 4th Floor San Diego, California 92101-6036 TEL: (619) 233-1525 FAX: (619) 233-3221	
Attorneys for plaintiff LEE LACY	
UNITED STATE SOUTHERN DIST	ES DISTRICT COURT RICT OF CALIFORNIA
LEE LACY, an individual	Case No. '12CV0624 MMAJMA
Plaintiff,	COMPLAINT FOR:
v.	) )
ELIZABETH PALMER, RANDALL	VIOLATION OF 42 U.S.C. 1983 EXCESSIVE FORCE (4th Amendment)
RIBADA, R. PATRON, #7552, C. SNODGRASS, #0079, M. ALVARADO,	) ) (2) FAILURE TO TRAIN
#1067, D. MORSE, #9864, GREG BARNETT, WILLIAM DONOHUE, WILLIAM GORE, COUNTY OF SAN DIEGO, and DOES 1-20 inclusive,	) ) (3) FAILURE TO SUPERVISE AND ) DISCIPLINE
DIEGO, and DOES 1-20 inclusive,	) (4) FAILURE TO INVESTIGATE
Defendants.	) (5) <i>MONELL</i> LIABILITY FAILURE TO PROPERLY SUPERVISE, INVESTIGATE AND DISCIPLINE
	) )
<u> </u>	, ) )
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COMES NOW, Plaintiff, by and through his attorneys of record, and alleges and complains as follows:

### I. GENERAL ALLEGATIONS

- 1. Jurisdiction is founded upon the existence of a federal question, pursuant to 28 U.S.C. §§ 1331, 1343(a)(3) and (4).
- 2. This is an action to redress the deprivation under color of statute, ordinance, regulation, custom or usage of rights, privileges, and immunities secured to the plaintiff by the Fourth and Fourteenth Amendments to the Constitution of the United States (42 U.S.C. § 1983) and arising under the law and statutes of the State of California.
- 3. Pursuant to 28 U.S.C. § 1391(b), venue is proper in the Southern District of California because the acts or omissions which form the basis of the Plaintiff's claims occurred in Chula Vista, California.
- 4. At all times relevant to this complaint, Plaintiff was an individual residing in San Diego County, California.
- 5. At some times relevant to this complaint, Defendants ELIZABETH PALMER, RANDALL RIBADA, R. PATRON, C. SNODGRASS, M. ALVARADO, D. MORSE were deputy sheriffs and agents of the COUNTY OF SAN DIEGO.
- 6. At some times relevant to this complaint, Defendant GREG BARNET was a lieutenant with the San Diego Sheriff's Department, and was the supervisor of Defendants PALMER, RANDALL RIBADA, R. PATRON, C. SNODGRASS, M. ALVARADO, D. MORSE. These defendants were agents of the COUNTY OF SAN DIEGO.
- 7. At some times relevant to this complaint, Defendant WILLIAM DONAHUE was a lieutenant with the Internal Affairs Unit and an agent of the COUNTY OF SAN DIEGO.
- 8. At some times relevant to this complaint, Defendant WILLIAM GORE was the sheriff of San Diego and a policy-maker.
  - 9. At some times relevant to this complaint, Defendants DOES 1-20, were San

Diego sheriffs and agents of the COUNTY OF SAN DIEGO. At some times relevant hereto, these defendants were acting in their professional capacity as San Diego sheriffs and at other times they were working in their personal capacity as individuals outside the scope of their employment.

- 10. Plaintiff is truly ignorant of the true names and capacities of DOES 1 through 20, inclusive, and/or are truly ignorant of the facts giving rise to their liability and will amend this complaint once their identities have been ascertained as well as the facts giving rise to their liability.
- 11. These Defendants were agents, servants and employees of each other of the other named defendants and were acting at all times within the full course and scope of their agency and employment, with the full knowledge and consent, either expressed or implied, of their principal and/or employer and each of the other named defendants and each of the defendants had approved or ratified the actions of the other defendants thereby making the currently named defendants herein liable for the acts and/or omissions of their agents, servants and/or employees.

#### II. FACTS

- 12. Plaintiff realleges all prior paragraphs of this complaint and incorporates the same herein.
- 13. On November 14, 2010, Lee Lacy went to the Chula Vista courthouse to have a "fix-it" ticket signed off. The ticket was for tail lights and exhaust in his car, which he had repaired in compliance with the ticket.
- 14. Mr. Lacy went into the Sheriff's office in the courthouse to get a signature from a deputy on his ticket.
- 15. When Mr. Lacy was speaking with an employee at the front desk, Defendant Palmer approached Mr. Lacy and engaged him in a heated confrontation.
- 16. Defendant Palmer slapped her hand hard on the desk and told him that she would not sign off on Mr. Lacy's ticket.

Mr. Lacy put up his hands to protect himself.

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and it resulted in the "Disposition of Unfounded."

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1	51.	There had been no "investigation" by Internal Affairs.
2	52.	There had been multiple complaints against Defendant Palmer for excessive force,
3	harassment, a	nd anger management problems, but the Sheriff had taken no corrective action.
4		<u>III</u>
5		FIRST CAUSE OF ACTION (Civil Rights Action (42 U.S.C. § 1983)
6	Excessive F	orce under the Fourth Amendment Against Defendants PALMER, RIBADA, PATRON, SNODGRAS, ALVARADO, MORSE and Does 1 to 20
7		
8	53. herein by this	Plaintiff realleges all prior paragraphs of this complaint and incorporates the same reference as if those paragraphs were set forth in full herein.
9	54.	42 U.S.C. § 1983 provides in part:
10		Every person who, under color of any statute, ordinance, regulation, custom, or usage of any State or Territory subjects, or
12		causes to be subjected, any person of the United States or other person within the jurisdiction thereof to the deprivation of any
13		rights, privileges, or immunities secured by the Constitution and laws shall be liable to the party injured in an action at law, suit at equity or other proper proceeding for redress.
14	55.	Plaintiff, Mr. Lacy, had a firmly established right under the Fourth Amendment to
15 16	be free from u	inreasonable and excessive force being used against him to effect an arrest, search
17	or seizure.	
18	56.	On November 14, 2010, Lee Lacy was walking away from the Sheriff's office as
19	he had been in	nstructed to do and posed no threat to anyone when defendant officers shoved him,
20	took him dow	n forcibly, twisted his arms, threatened to Tasered him, kicked and punched him.
21	57.	There was no need for any use of force because Mr. Lacy was walking away and
22	minding his o	wn business.
23	58.	Mr. Lacy had broken no laws.
24	59.	The use of the force in taking Mr. Lacy down was unreasonable and excessive.
25	60.	No defendant attempted to intervene stop the others from using excessive force.
26	Each of the D	efendants participated and assisted the other in the use of force.
27	61.	The defendants were at this time performing their duties as officers for Defendant
28	County of Sar	n Diego.

- 62. During the relevant period, Defendants were acting under color and pretense of law, to wit: under color of the statutes, ordinances, regulations, customs and usages of the State of California and the County of San Diego.
  - 63. Defendants knew that their conduct was clearly illegal.
- 64. Defendants, separately and in concert, engaged in the illegal conduct to the injury of the plaintiff, and deprived plaintiff of the rights, privileges and immunities secured to Plaintiff by the Fourth Amendment to the Constitution and the laws of the United States.
- 65. Plaintiff was subjected to humiliation, fear, physical injury, and pain and suffering by the illegal acts of defendants and is entitled to attorney fees and punitive damages.

# IV. SECOND CAUSE OF ACTION [Civil Rights Action (42 U.S.C. § 1983) For Failure to Properly Train Against Defendants SAN DIEGO, GORE and BARNETT]

- 66. Plaintiff realleges all prior paragraphs of this complaint and incorporates the same herein.
- 67. COUNTY OF SAN DIEGO, GORE and BARNETT, as a matter of custom, practice and policy, failed to maintain adequate and proper training for deputy sheriffs in the department necessary to educate the officers as to the Constitutional rights of citizens and arrestees; and to prevent the unreasonable and/or unnecessary use of force on citizens.
- 68. Defendants failed to provide adequate training to deputy officers that held the power, authority, insignia, equipment and arms entrusted to them. Defendants failed to promulgate and enforce adequate policies and procedures related to police misconduct, the violation of citizens' civil rights by deputy sheriffs, and harassment and assault.
- 69. Defendant Barnett was a lieutenant and the supervisor of the individual defendants. Barnett failed to properly train his subordinates with respect to the use of force.
- 70. Therefore, these Defendants, with deliberate indifference, disregarded a duty to protect the public from official misconduct.

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- 71. The failure to promulgate or maintain Constitutionally adequate training was done with deliberate indifference to the rights of Plaintiff and others in their position.
- 72. The constitutionally infirm lack of adequate training as to the officers in this case caused Plaintiff's damages.
- 73. As a result of Defendants actions, Plaintiff suffered damages in the amount to be proven at trial.

## V. THIRD CAUSE OF ACTION Civil Rights Action (42 U.S.C. § 1983) For Failure to Supervise and Discipline Against Defendants COUNTY OF SAN DIEGO, GORE, DONAHUE and BARNETT

- 74. Plaintiff realleges all prior paragraphs of this complaint and incorporates the same herein.
- 75. COUNTY OF SAN DIEGO, GORE, DONAHUE and BARNETT, as a matter of custom, practice and policy, failed to supervise deputy officers in the department to prevent, deter and punish wrongful arrests and detentions.
- 76. COUNTY OF SAN DIEGO, GORE, DONAHUE and BARNETT, as a matter of custom, practice and policy, failed to discipline deputy officers in the department to prevent, deter and punish wrongful arrests and detentions.
- 77. Defendants had knowledge of prior incidents of misconduct and civil rights violations by other deputies involving similar facts.
- 78. Defendants had knowledge of prior incidents of misconduct and civil rights violations by the same deputies.
- 79. Defendants were, or should have been, aware that the policy regarding supervision and discipline of officers who violated the civil rights of the citizens was so inadequate that it was obvious that a failure to correct it would result in further incidents by its deputies.
- 80. The Constitutionally deficient investigation and lack of discipline was done with deliberate indifference to the rights of Plaintiff and others in his position.
  - 81. The lack of adequate supervision and discipline caused Plaintiff's damages

1	82.	As a result of Defendants actions, Plaintiff suffered damages in the amount to be
2	proven at tria	1.
3		N.T.
4 5		VI. <u>FOURTH CAUSE OF ACTION</u> Civil Rights Action (42 U.S.C. § 1983) For Failure to Properly Investigate Citizen Complaints Against Defendants
6		COUNTY OF SAN DIEGO, GORE, DONAHUE and BARNETT
7	83.	Plaintiff realleges all prior paragraphs of this complaint and incorporates the same
8	herein.	
9	84.	COUNTY OF SAN DIEGO, GORE, DONAHUE and BARNETT, as a matter of
10	custom, pract	tice and policy, failed to properly investigate citizen complaints against deputies to
11	prevent, deter	r and punish unnecessary and excessive use of force.
12	85.	Defendants had knowledge of prior incidents of misconduct and civil rights
13	violations by	other deputies involving similar facts.
14	86.	Defendants had knowledge of prior incidents of misconduct and civil rights
15	violations by	the same deputies.
16	87.	Defendants covered up the misconduct of the deputies when citizens filed
17	complaints ag	gainst them.
18	88.	Defendants failed to investigate the claims of wrongful conduct when citizens
19	filed complai	nts against deputies.
20	89.	Defendants were, or should have been, aware that the policy regarding the
21	investigation	of officers who violated the civil rights of the citizens was so inadequate that it was
22	obvious that	a failure to correct it would result in further incidents by its deputies.
23	90.	The Constitutionally deficient investigation was done with deliberate indifference
24	to the rights of	of Plaintiff and others in his position.
25	91.	The lack of adequate investigation caused Plaintiff's damages.
26	92.	As a result of Defendants actions, Plaintiff suffered damages in the amount to be
27	proven at tria	1.
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1 VII. FIFTH CAUSE OF ACTION 2 (Monell Municipal Liability Civil Rights Action (42 U.S.C. § 1983) Against Defendant COUNTY OF SAN DIEGO) 3 Inadequate System of Supervising, Reviewing Citizen Complaints and Disciplining 4 93. Plaintiff realleges all prior paragraphs of this complaint and incorporates the same 5 herein by this reference as if those paragraphs were set forth in full herein. 6 San Diego deputy sheriffs, acting under color of law, have subjected Plaintiff and 7 other persons similarly situated to a pattern of conduct consisting of assault, battery, intentional 8 and negligent infliction of emotional distress, the use of excessive force, the imposition of 9 punishment without due process of law, in denial of rights, privileges and immunities guaranteed 10 Plaintiff and other residents of the state of California by the Constitution of the United States. 11 95. Defendant County of San Diego systematically failed to investigate claims of 12 misconduct or to discipline wrongdoers after citizens made complaints related to its deputies. 13 96. 14 The deficiencies in the complaint process encouraged additional misconduct or 15 excessive force violations. 16 97. Defendant was aware of the complaints against the individual defendants. 17 98. Defendant failed to properly investigate citizen complaints. 18 99. This systematic inadequacies permitted serious misconduct of its deputies to go 19 unchecked. 20 100. Continued official tolerance of repeated misconduct facilitated similar unlawful 21 actions to occur. 22 101. The failure to institute an adequate system to receive, investigate, and resolve 23 citizen complaints against deputies amounts to a policy of deliberate indifference to the need for 24 police supervision. 25 102. San Diego County's complete failure to maintain an adequate system of 26 disciplining officers who act unconstitutionally represents a policy for which the County is

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responsible.

	Case 3:12-cv-00624-MMA-JMA	Document 1	Filed 03/12/12	Page 12 of 13
1	DATED: March 12, 2012		Respectfully su	bmitted,
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5			/s/ Julia Yoo Eugene G. Ired Julia Yoo	ale
6			Julia Yoo Attorneys for P LEE LACY	laintiff
7			LEE LACY	
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SJS 44 (Rev. 12/07)

### CIVIL COVER SHEET

The JS 44 civil cover sheet and the information contained herein neither replace nor supplement the filing and service of pleadings or other papers as required by law, except as provided by local rules of court. This form, approved by the Judicial Conference of the United States in September 1974, is required for the use of the Clerk of Court for the purpose of initiating the civil docket sheet. (SEE INSTRUCTIONS ON THE REVERSE OF THE FORM.)

I. (a) PLAINTIFFS			DEFENDANTS	Sign			
(b) County of Residence of First Listed Plaintiff San Diego (EXCEPT IN U.S. PLAINTIFF CASES)  (c) Attorney's (Firm Name, Address, and Telephone Number)			ELIZABETH PALMER, et al.				
			186 C. L. C.		Defendant San Diego LAINTIFF CASES ONLY) ATION CASES, USE THE LOCATION OF THE  12CV0624 MMAJMA		
ulia Yoo, Iredale and Y	oo, APC (619) 233-1525 r, San Diego, CA 92101						
II. BASIS OF JURISD	ICTION (Place an "X" in One Box Only)	III. C		RINCIPA	L PARTIES	Place an "X" in One Box for Plaintiff and One Box for Defendant)	
☐ 1 U.S. Government Plaintiff	☑ 3 Federal Question (U.S. Government Not a Party)	Citiz	(For Diversity Cases Only) PTI zen of This State	1 0 1	Incorporated or Pri of Business In This	ncipal Place	
2 U.S. Government Defendant	☐ 4 Diversity (Indicate Citizenship of Parties in Item III)	Citiz	zen of Another State		Incorporated and P of Business In A Foreign Nation		
IV NATURE OF SUIT	Γ (Place an "X" in One Box Only)	Fe	oreign Country		-	1 221	
CONTRACT	TORTS		ORFEITURE/PENALTY		KRUPTCY	OTHER STATUTES	
110 Insurance   120 Marine   130 Miller Act   140 Negotiable Instrument   150 Recovery of Overpayment & Enforcement of Judgment   151 Medicare Act   152 Recovery of Defaulted Student Loans (Excl. Veterans)   153 Recovery of Overpayment of Veteran's Benefits   160 Stockholders' Suits   190 Other Contract   195 Contract Product Liability   196 Franchise   REAL PROPERTY   210 Land Condemnation   220 Foreclosure   230 Rent Lease & Ejectment   240 Torts to Land   245 Tort Product Liability   290 All Other Real Property	PERSONAL INJURY  310 Airplane 315 Airplane Product Liability 320 Assault, Libel & Slander 330 Federal Employers' Liability 340 Marine 345 Marine Product Liability 350 Motor Vehicle Product Liability 350 Motor Vehicle Product Liability 360 Other Personal Injury CIVIL RIGHTS 441 Voting 442 Employment 443 Housing/ Accommodations 444 Welfare 445 Amer. w/Disabilities - Employment 446 Amer. w/Disabilities - Other 440 Other Civil Rights	ity	20 Other Food & Drug 225 Drug Related Seizure of Property 21 USC 881 230 Liquor Laws 240 R.R. & Truck 250 Occupational Safety/Health 250 Other  LABOR 710 Fair Labor Standards Act 720 Labor/Mgmt. Relations 730 Labor/Mgmt. Reporting & Disclosure Act 740 Railway Labor Act 740 Other Labor Litigation 751 Empl. Ret. Inc. Security Act  IMMIGRATION 462 Naturalization Application 463 Habeas Corpus Alien Detaince 465 Other Immigration Actions	□ 820 Copyr □ 830 Patent □ 840 Trader  SOCIAL: □ 861 IIIA ( □ 862 Black □ 863 DIWC □ 864 SSID □ 865 RSI ( □ FEDERA □ 870 Taxes or De □ 871 IRS— 26 US	rawal C 157 TY RIGHTS ights imark  SECURITY 1395ff) Lung (923) Z/DIWW (405(g)) Title XVI 405(g)) L. TAX SUITS (U.S. Plaintiff efendant)	400 State Reapportionment   410 Antitrust   430 Banks and Banking   450 Commerce   460 Deportation   470 Racketeer Influenced and Corrupt Organizations   480 Consumer Credit   490 Cable/Sat TV   810 Selective Service   850 Securities/Commodities/Exchange   875 Customer Challenge   12 USC 3410   890 Other Statutory Actions   891 Agricultural Acts   892 Economic Stabilization Act   895 Freedom of Information Act   900 Appeal of Fee Determination Under Equal Access to Justice   950 Constitutionality of State Statutes	
🕱 1 Original 🗇 2 F	ean "X" in One Box Only) Removed from	Ro	enstated of D 3 another	ferred from er district ify) al statutes u	☐ 6 Multidist Litigation	n iviagistrate	
VI. CAUSE OF ACT	Brief description of cause: excessive force, failure to train		to supervise, tailur	e to inves	stigate, Mone	ell	
VII. REQUESTED IT COMPLAINT:	N CHECK IF THIS IS A CLASS ACTI UNDER F.R.C.P. 23	1,000	DEMAND \$ ,000.00		URY DEMANE	y if demanded in complaint: o: Ø Yes □ No	
VIII. RELATED CA	SE(S) (See instructions): JUDGE			DOCKE	ET NUMBER		
03/12/2012	SIGNATURE OF	ATTORNE	EY OF RECORD	M			
FOR OFFICE USE ONLY	AMOUNT APPLYING IF		JUDGE		MAG. JI	LIDGE	